

REMARKS

Upon entry of the foregoing amendments, claims 1, 5-14 are under consideration.

CONCLUSION

On the basis of the foregoing amendments, Applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. If there are any questions regarding these amendments and remarks, the Examiner is encouraged to contact either of the undersigned at the telephone number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Version With Markings to Show Changes

Claims have been amended.

1. A method of treating athersclerosis [a vascular disease] in a subject, comprising administering to said subject an inhibitor of a cysteine protease.
5. The method of claim 1, wherein the cysteine protease is [selected from the group consisting of] cathepsin S[, cathepsin K, and cathepsin L].
6. The method of claim 1, wherein said inhibitor comprises a cystatin.
7. The method of claim 1, wherein said inhibitor comprises a cystatin C polypeptide.
8. The method of claim 7, wherein said polypeptide comprises a cystatin C active site.
9. The method of claim 1, wherein said inhibitor is administered locally to a site of vascular injury.
10. The method of claim 1, wherein said inhibitor is administered systemically.
11. A method of preventing development of athersclerosis [a vascular disease] in a subject, comprising administering to said subject an inhibitor of a cysteine protease.
12. The method of claim 11, wherein said subject is at risk of developing athersclerosis [a vascular disease].
13. A method of treating athersclerosis [a vascular disease] in a subject, comprising administering to said subject transforming growth factor beta.

14 A method of preventing development of athersclerosis [a vascular disease] in a subject, comprising administering to said subject transforming growth factor beta.